



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 3, 2000  
NR00-037

## CATCH LIMIT CHANGES APPROVED FOR ATLANTIC GROUP KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL

NOAA Fisheries has published a final rule implementing changes in the catch specifications for Atlantic group king and Spanish mackerels. **These changes are effective August 2, 2000.**

### Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel

The total allowable catch (TAC) is increased from 6.6 million pounds (MP) to 7.04 MP. The commercial allocation will be 3.87 MP (55%) and the recreational allocation will be 3.17 MP (45%).

The recreational bag limit is increased from 10 to 15 fish per person per day.

The daily commercial trip limits (vessel fishing days begin at 6:00 a.m. and extend until 6:00 a.m. the following day, and vessels must be unloaded by 6:00 p.m. of that following day) in the Southern zone (Georgia/Florida boundary to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary) are adjusted as follows:

- 3,500 pounds/day from April 1 through November 30;
  - unlimited on Monday through Friday and 1,500 pounds/day on weekends from December 1 until 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken;
  - 1,500 pounds/day after 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken; and
  - 500 pounds/day when 100% of the adjusted allocation is reached to the end of the fishing year (March 31).
- The adjusted allocation accounts for these catches that will occur to the end of the season.

### Atlantic Group King Mackerel

The TAC is increased from 8.4 MP to 10.0 MP. The commercial allocation will be 3.71 MP (37.1%) and the recreational allocation will be 6.29 MP (62.9%).

Increase the daily commercial trip limit in the Southern Zone (Volusia/Brevard to Miami-Dade/Monroe County lines) from 50 to 75 fish. This change only effects fishing effort on Atlantic group king mackerel from April 1 through October 31. It does not effect trip limits for Gulf group king mackerel in the winter (November 1 through March 31).

### Sustainable Fisheries Act Provisions

NOAA Fisheries also approved the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's new definitions of maximum sustainable yield, maximum fishing mortality threshold, and minimum stock size threshold to reflect biomass-based values, and established new criteria to determine if overfishing is occurring or if the stock is overfished.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.